

California Fair Political Practices Commission

February 6, 1990

Al Van Petten
The Van Petten Committee
2005 Fantero Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025-5309

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. A-89-711

Dear Mr. Van Petten:

You have requested advice under the campaign provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act").¹

QUESTIONS

1. Does the Act require your committee's identification number, as provided by the Secretary of State, to be listed on campaign literature?
2. May you distribute your campaign literature without an identification number?
3. May the "petition-in-lieu-of-filing-fee" be reproduced and included in a mailer?

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Act does not require that the committee's identification number be listed on campaign literature.
2. There is no requirement that the identification number be acquired before distribution of campaign literature. However, if more than 200 substantially similar pieces of mail are sent in a calendar month, the committee's name and address must be identified on the outside of the mailer in no less than 6-point type.
3. There is no prohibition in the Act against inclusion of a petition in a campaign mailer.

¹ Government Code Sections 81000-91015. All statutory references are to the Government Code unless otherwise indicated. Commission regulations appear at 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18000, et seq. All references to regulations are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations.

Al Van Petten
Page Two

FACTS

You are a candidate for Governor of the State of California. As of December 18, 1989, you had not filed a statement of organization with the Secretary of State and, therefore, had not received an identification number for your committee.

You have developed some campaign literature which you want to distribute with a copy of the "petition-in-lieu-of-filing-fee."

ANALYSIS

The Act does not address the content of campaign literature.


Section 84305 requires mass mailings, more than 200 substantially similar pieces of mail sent in a calendar month, to include the committee name and address on the outside of the mailer in no less than 6-point type. There is no requirement for inclusion of the identification number. However, if the mailer is a solicitation of funds, you may include the identification number or name and address of the treasurer in the solicitation so that contributors who have filing obligations are provided with the information they need to complete their campaign statements. (Section 84211.)

The Act does not address inclusion of the "petition-in-lieu-of-filing-fee" with any campaign literature.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at (916) 322-5662.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Donovan
General Counsel


By: Kevin S. Braaten-Moen
Political Reform Consultant

The Van Petten Committee
2005 Fantero Avenue
Escondido, California 92025-5309
Telephone: 619-743-6351

FPPC
Dec 28 8 30 AM '89

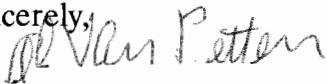
The date is 1989 12 18 04 35 hours.

Fair Political Practices Commission
P.O.Box 807
Sacramento, CA 95804

Dear Sirs,

1. Please review the enclosed campaign literature and determine whether it conforms to the requirements of your regulations. It does not have a committee number on it because we have not yet received a number because The committee qualified only last Wednesday and we have not yet sent the Form 410 to the Secretary Of State. We will do that shortly.
2. Please inform me at your earliest convenience of your determination on the literature.
3. Please advise me: Is it permissible to distribute this literature without the committee number during the time-interval before we receive the committee number from the Secretary Of State?
4. Will you object if I print copies of the petition-in-lieu-of-filing-fee and include them in my mailer?

Sincerely,



Al Van Petten, Democratic Candidate for Governor

Make life easier, not harder.
Which side are you on?



California Fair Political Practices Commission

January 8, 1990

Al Van Petten
The Van Petten Committee
2005 Fantero Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025-5309

Re: Letter No. 89-711

Dear Mr. Van Petten:

Your letter requesting advice under the Political Reform Act was received on December 26, 1989 by the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you have any questions about your advice request, you may contact me directly at (916) 322-5662.

We try to answer all advice requests promptly. Therefore, unless your request poses particularly complex legal questions, or more information is needed, you should expect a response within 21 working days if your request seeks formal written advice. If more information is needed, the person assigned to prepare a response to your request will contact you shortly to advise you as to the information needed. If your request is for informal assistance, we will answer it as quickly as we can. (See Commission Regulation 18329 (2 Cal. Code of Regs. Sec. 18329).)

You also should be aware that your letter and our response are public records which may be disclosed to the public upon receipt of a proper request for disclosure.

Very truly yours,

Jeanne Pritchard
Jeanne Pritchard
Chief Technical Assistance
and Analysis Division

JP:plh



March Fong Eu
Secretary of State

1230 J Street
P.O. Box 1467
Sacramento, California 95807

POLITICAL REFORM DIVISION
(916) 322-4880

January 9, 1990

Mr. Al Van Petten
The Van Petten Committee
2005 Fantevo Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025-5309

Mr. Van Petten:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 1989, in which you request direction regarding campaign literature, you intend to distribute to the public.

Because it is not within the scope of this agency to determine whether your literature conforms to regulatory standards, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The FPPC is the state agency with primary responsibility for the administration and implementation of the Political Reform Act. If you wish to follow up on your request with the Commission, they may be reached at:

Fair Political Practices Commission
P.O. Box 807
Sacramento, CA 95804-0807
(916) 322-5662

You may distribute literature without a committee identification number provided you include the following information (Government Code Section 84305):

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), no candidate or committee shall send a mass mailing unless the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee are shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail of such mailing in no less than 6-point type. a post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the organization's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

(b) If the sender of the mass mailing is a single candidate or committee, the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee need only be shown on the outside of each piece of mail.

(c) If the sender of a mass mailing is a controlled committee, the name of the person controlling the committee shall be included in addition to the information required by subdivision (a).

Mr. Al Van Petten
January 9, 1990
Page Two

I was informed by Oliver Cox, legal counsel from the Elections Division, that you may include copies of the petition in-lieu-of-filing-fee, with your mailing. There are discretionary standards of which you should be aware regarding this situation; however, please write Oliver Cox for further information at:

Secretary of State
Elections Division, Room 232
1230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

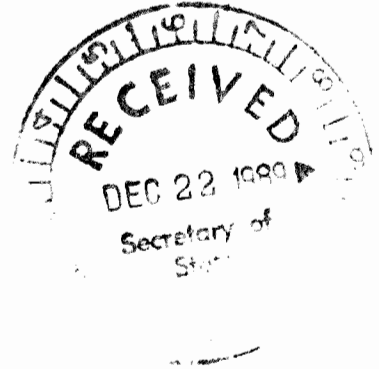
Should you have further questions, for which you feel I may be of assistance, please call me at 322-4883 or write me at the address shown on the letterhead.

Sincerely,

DEONA VASTINE
Political Reform Analyst

cc: Fair Political Practices Commission

The Van Petten Committee
2005 Fantero Avenue
Escondido, California 92025-5309
Telephone: 619-743-6351



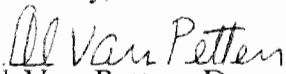
The date is 1989 12 18 04 34 hours.

Secretary of State
Political Reform Division
Room 219
P.O Box 1467
Sacramento, CA 95812-1467

Dear Sirs,

1. Please review the enclosed campaign literature and determine whether it conforms to the requirements of your regulations. It does not have a committee number on it because we have not yet received a number because The committee qualified only last Wednesday and we have not yet sent the Form 410 to the Secretary Of State. We will do that shortly.
2. Please inform me at your earliest convenience of your determination on the literature.
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Sincerely,


Al Van Petten, Democratic Candidate for Governor

Make life easier, not harder.
Which side are you on?

*Called
w/ 10* 12-27-89
K*

DETAILS OF THE PROSPERITY PLAN

BAD TAXES VS. GOOD TAXES

There are two types of taxes: bad taxes and good taxes. The bad taxes hinder the people in their obtaining a good life. The good taxes *help* the people in their obtaining a good life.

TRANSACTION TAXES

Transaction taxes are bad taxes. They act only when a transaction occurs. Examples are income taxes, sales taxes, payroll taxes, inheritance taxes, gift taxes, value-added taxes, excise taxes, tariffs, et cetera. Transaction taxes do not tax idle wealth which is not exchanged. Transaction taxes act similarly to tariff barriers to discourage the free exchange of goods and services.

TIME TAXES

Some time taxes are good taxes. They accrue with increasing time but ignore transactions. Examples are property taxes and capitation taxes. Property taxes *do* tax idle wealth. Property taxes encourage the efficient use of wealth by continuing to accrue with passing time. The owner must use his wealth in efficient production of desired services for which people are willing to pay so that he may gain income in order to offset the property taxes which are accruing.

If an owner cannot use his wealth efficiently to offset the property taxes, then the property taxes give him an incentive to lend or sell the property to someone else. This "someone else" then finds himself in the same position as the previous owner.

WEALTH TAX

The Wealth Tax is a time tax on all wealth at one uniform rate. Each

member of the society provides the taxing agency with his Taxpayer's List Of Wealth, which is a list of all of the items of wealth which he owns. The taxing agency determines the value of each piece of wealth by the assessment method below and then totals these values to arrive at the Taxpayer's Total Wealth.

EXEMPTION FOR DEBT

The Prosperity Plan exempts each taxpayer from paying any tax on an amount of wealth which is equal in value to the amount of debt which he owes. Each taxpayer who wishes to claim this exemption provides the taxing agency with a list of all the debts which he owes. The Taxing agency determines the value of each debt by the assessment method and then totals these values to arrive at the Taxpayer's Total Debt.

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

The Prosperity Plan exempts some amount of the wealth of each person in order to increase the acceptance of the Wealth Tax. An exemption of \$50,000 per person would permit a family of four who share ownership to have a combined exemption of \$200,000. This general exemption converts the Wealth Tax from being a "uniform tax", which means that it has a uniform rate for all wealth, to a "progressive tax", which means that it taxes large accumulations at a higher rate than the rate for small accumulations.

The taxing agency subtracts the Taxpayer's Total Debt and the General Exemption from the Taxpayer's Total Wealth to arrive at the Taxpayer's Taxable Wealth. Then the Taxable Wealth multiplied by the

Tax Ratio gives the Taxpayer's Tax, which might be negative.

PAYMENTS

The Prosperity Payments provide widespread management of the economy in order to ensure that the economy is satisfying the desires of the people. Dollars are like economic votes and are the most efficient method of democratic management of the economy. These payments are like a negative capitation tax.

ASSESSMENT

On each Taxpayer's List Of Wealth the owner must declare the price at which he is willing to sell that piece of wealth, but reasonable grouping of some items is allowed.

Anyone may register with the taxing agency his bonded offer for any piece of wealth. For each piece of wealth the taxing agency will prepare a List Of Offers.

For each piece of wealth or reasonable group of pieces the taxing agency will determine the average between (1) the highest current bonded offer and (2) the price at which the owner agrees to sell. This average is the Assessed Value of that piece of wealth. The Assessed Value will change whenever the highest offer or owner's price changes.

This Prosperity Plan method of assessment will guard against excessive political control of assessment.

INFORMATION

For more details read the book *The Prosperity Plan of 1989*.

(See other side.)

Make life easier, not harder.

Which side are you on?

THE PROSPERITY PLAN PURPOSE

The Prosperity Plan is the only way to ensure widespread, well-founded prosperity in any society. However, no society is required to have prosperity, and all societies and persons should be free to select the particular compromise which they choose between prosperity and hardship.

DEFINITIONS

"Prosperity" means "a good life". It does not mean "excessive activity". On the contrary, prosperity requires sufficient leisure to enable people to have a good life. The opposite of prosperity is hardship. The opposite of excessive activity is depression. Full employment may ensure activity, but it does not ensure prosperity. Government programs which generate meaningless work to increase employment *do* increase activity, but they *do not* increase prosperity and instead decrease it.

BASIC REQUIREMENT

The basic requirement for prosperity is the efficient use of the wealth of the society to satisfy the desires of the members of that society. When people use their wealth efficiently to work for them, then they themselves do not need to work so hard to have a good life. There will always be some disagreements between people as to how much one person should use his wealth to satisfy the desires of someone else, but the Prosperity Plan does not resolve such disagreements.

ENSURING EFFICIENCY

If a society desires prosperity and efficient use of its wealth, then it must encourage the continual and rapid redistribution of its wealth from inefficient users

to efficient users. Usually the people accomplish this redistribution by investing and lending and spending their money, but many government policies and practices discourage this redistribution, which is necessary for prosperity. Herein we call this redistribution the "necessary redistribution", meaning "necessary for prosperity".

COMMUNISM

Communism does not encourage prosperity because it does not encourage the necessary redistribution. Communism professes to redistribute according to need, but in practice it usually permits the politicians to redistribute mainly to themselves.

CAPITALISM

Capitalism also does not always encourage prosperity because it does not always ensure the necessary redistribution. Sometimes the rule of capitalism is: The rich get richer and the poor get poorer, regardless of efficiency. Such a rule results in very few very rich and very many very poor until eventually one person ends up owning all wealth.

PRODUCTIONISM

The rule of productionism is: Those persons who produce the most of the most desired services in the most efficient manner shall prosper the most. Such a rule *will* encourage the necessary redistribution and thereby will encourage prosperity.

SPECIFIC STEPS

1. End all transaction taxes. Examples are income taxes, sales taxes, payroll taxes, et cetera, which act only on transactions and do not tax idle wealth.

2. Derive all revenue from the Wealth Tax, which is a time tax and not a transaction tax. The Wealth

Tax is usually stated as a certain percentage per year, but it could be stated as a certain percentage per day or week or month or any other time-unit. It continues to accumulate with passing time and ignores transactions. The Wealth Tax will encourage the necessary redistribution and the efficient use of all wealth and thereby will encourage prosperity.

3. For each taxpayer exempt an amount of wealth equal to the value of the debt which that taxpayer owes. This exemption will encourage the necessary redistribution by encouraging investment and lending.

4. Exempt \$50,000 per person. This exemption will protect the poor and middle class.

5. End all existing wealth-redistribution programs, such as Social Security and welfare, and in their stead pay to everyone over ten years old \$30 per day. These Prosperity Payments will encourage the necessary redistribution.

6. Assess each piece of wealth at the average between: (1) the highest current bonded offer for that piece of wealth and (2) the price at which the owner agrees to sell. This step ensures accurate assessment.

INFORMATION

For more information read the book *The Prosperity Plan Of 1989*, which will be published soon, or call or write the author:

Al Van Petten
Democratic
Candidate
for Governor
in 1990

Phone: 619-743-6351
2005 Fantero Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025
Which side are you on?

THE JUSTICE PLAN

PURPOSE

The Justice Plan contends that justice should be accurate, cheap, efficient, fast, and well publicized. However, it guards against excessive government and permits the people to curb excessive powers of the politicians.

DEFINITIONS

Justice is what people think it is. Therefore, justice can vary from one person to another.

PRINCIPLES

The Basic Principle Of Just Government is: All powers of a just government are derived "from the consent of the governed". The three Applied Principles Of Just Government are:

1. Your government should do exactly what you want it to do, and it should not do what you do not want it to do.
2. My government should do exactly what I want it to do, and it should not do what I do not want it to do.
3. Our government should do exactly what we want it to do, and it should not do what we do not want it to do.

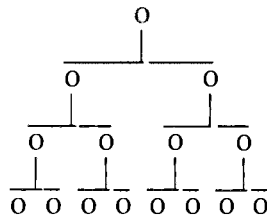
GOVERNMENT PYRAMID

Most governments are organized as pyramids. For example, the United States is one nation divided into 50 states, which are each divided into approximately 50 counties, which are each divided into approximately 100 precincts, which are each divided into approximately 1,000 persons. Each layer of government is smaller than the next-lower layer by the multiplier factor of 50 or 100 or 1,000.

The stack of these layers resembles a pyramid.

BINARY PYRAMID

The Justice Group is a binary pyramid, which looks like this:



The pyramid extends downward indefinitely. The circles indicate agents, and the horizontal lines indicate social contracts which govern the groups beneath them, and the vertical lines indicate social contracts which govern the agents above them.

DIFFERENCES

The major differences between most governments and the Justice Group are:

1. **Multiplier Factor:** Most governments have large multiplier factors, which make any downward appeal difficult. The Justice Group has the multiplier factor of 2 throughout. This small multiplier factor makes the downward appeal easy and permits the maximum of diversity and liberty.

2. **Derivation Of Power:** In most governments the lower levels derive all of their powers from the higher levels. In the Justice Group the higher levels derive all of their powers from the lower levels, as required by the Principles Of Just Government.

3. **Unified Representation:** In most governments the powers are supposedly divided into supposedly separate branches, such as executive and judicial and legislative. This division results in much confusion and irresponsibility.

The Justice Group requires that the top agent of any group represent that group in all aspects and responsibilities.

4. **Uncertain Tenures:** In most governments the agents have tenures for fixed periods of time regardless of the agents' actions. In the Justice Group the agents have uncertain tenures so that the people can remove them at any time.

5. **Downward Appeal:** Most governments allow only upward appeals from the decisions of the agents. The Justice Group allows both upward appeals and also downward appeals towards the people.

6. **Public Voting:** Most governments require secret voting at elections, thereby permitting much fraud and corruption. The Justice Group requires public voting at all levels to avoid such fraud and corruption.

SUMMARY

The main advantage of the Justice Plan is that it permits the people to have good, efficient control over the politicians.

INFORMATION

For more information read the book The Justice Plan, which will be published soon, or call or write the author:

Al Van Petten
Democratic
Candidate
for Governor
of California
in 1990

Phone: 619-743-6351
2005 Fantero Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025

Which side are you on?

SUBJECT: Getting and Keeping a Good Life

Dear Voter,

Please help us to establish the Justice Plan and the Prosperity Plan, which are described in the enclosures.

These plans are the only ways by which we can ensure a good life for ourselves and our families and our nation and the world.

If we do not establish these plans, we will CONTINUE to lose the good life and will find ourselves in unnecessary violence and hardship.

We want to elect people who will establish these plans in California in 1990, and we ask for your help. I am running for Governor, but one individual alone cannot make all of the changes which are necessary, and therefore, we need your help.

If you are registered as a Democrat, please sign the enclosed petition for me and get your Democrat friends to sign and mail it to me soon.

If you are able and willing to run for office on this platform, please take the necessary actions.

If you are able to contribute money to this very worthwhile effort, please send your contribution in the enclosed envelope. The maximum is \$1,000, but every little bit helps.

If you can volunteer, please call me at 619-743-6351.

My qualifications include graduation from West Point in 1947 and other accomplishments, but my major qualification is that I developed the Justice Plan and the Prosperity Plan.

If you don't have time to read the enclosures, just vote for me in 1990, and I will prove to you that we can ensure a good life for most people.

Sincerely,

AL VAN PETTEN, Democratic Candidate for Governor in 1990

Make life easier, not harder. Which side are you on?

89-12-19-B

THE VAN PETTEN COMMITTEE

2005 Fantero Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025-5309

for
widespread
well-founded
justice
and
prosperity.

OPINION SURVEY

If it is convenient for you, please circle your answers to the questions below and return your opinions with your reply. Thank you.

- | | | |
|------|--|--------|
| J1. | Do you agree that some political systems enable their people to enjoy a better life than some other political systems do? | NO YES |
| J2. | Do you agree that all governments derive "their <u>just</u> powers from the consent of the governed"? (This quote comes from the American Declaration Of Independence, which was written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776.) | NO YES |
| J3. | Do you agree that sometimes politicians assume powers which are not derived in any way whatsoever from the consent of the governed? | NO YES |
| J4. | Do you agree that the best way to ensure good government is to permit the good people to remove the bad politicians from office as quickly as they prove to be bad? | NO YES |
| J5. | Do you agree that the best way to make the necessary improvements is by peaceful, well publicized actions rather than by covert violence? | NO YES |
| J6. | Do you agree that the best government organizations are like the government pyramid of the United States? | NO YES |
| J7. | Do you agree that a democratic republic has an upward flow of authority rather than the downward flow of authoritarian governments? | NO YES |
| J8. | Do you agree that the voting and jury trials which many governments have are examples of the downward appeal, which permits the people to exercise some reasonable control over their politicians? | NO YES |
| J9. | Do you agree that the ability to appeal the decision of all politicians downward toward the people is a desirable feature of any government? | NO YES |
| J10. | Do you agree that excessive centralization of political power into the hands of a few individuals almost always leads to undesirable government? | NO YES |
| J11. | Do you agree that our government should do what we want it to do and should not do what we do not want it to do? | NO YES |
| J12. | Do you agree that we can ensure good government if we use good judgment and take the necessary action? | NO YES |

If you answer YES, then you may wish to support the Justice Plan.

Which side are you on?

Al Van Petten, 2005 Fantero Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025-5309

Telephone: 619-743-6351

(Please see reverse side.)

OPINION SURVEY

If it is convenient for you, please circle your answers to the questions below and return your opinions with your reply. Thank you.

- | | | |
|------|--|--------|
| P1. | Do you want to ensure a good life for yourself and your family and your friends? | NO YES |
| P2. | Do you agree that some economic systems enable the people to enjoy a better life than some other economic systems do? | NO YES |
| P3. | Do you agree that an individual must use his wealth efficiently if he expects to derive a good life from that wealth? | NO YES |
| P4. | Do you agree that any group of persons must use their wealth efficiently if they expect to derive a good life from that wealth? | NO YES |
| P5. | Do you agree that a good rule for a desirable society is: Those persons who produce the most of the most desired services in the most efficient manner shall prosper the most? | NO YES |
| P6. | Do you agree that communism and socialism generally do not enable the people to enjoy as good a life as free-enterprise systems do? | NO YES |
| P7. | Do you agree that sometimes under capitalism the actual rule is: The rich get richer while the poor get poorer without regard to efficiency? | NO YES |
| P8. | Do you agree that when the rich always get richer, and the poor always get poorer, then the result is very few very rich and very many very poor and excessive unnecessary hardship? | NO YES |
| P9. | Do you agree that excessive centralization of economic power into the hands of only a few inefficient individuals almost always produces unnecessary hardship? | NO YES |
| P10. | Do you agree that a continual and rapid redistribution of wealth from inefficient users to efficient users is necessary if the efficient use of wealth is desired? | NO YES |
| P11. | Do you agree that the best method of managing any economy is widespread democratic management by the people through the use of the economic votes which we call money? | NO YES |
| P12. | Do you agree that we can make life easier and not harder if we use good judgment and take the necessary action? | NO YES |

If you answer YES, then you may wish to support the Prosperity Plan.

Which side are you on?

Al Van Petten, 2005 Fantero Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025-5309

Telephone: 619-743-6351

(Please see reverse side.)